

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 17th March 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr C Shore (Chairman), Cllr P Aiston, Cllr Mrs H Ayer, Cllr R Ayer, Cllr W Organ and Cllr Ms M Vincent

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk) Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk), Mr P Jones (Maintenance Contracts Officer) and one member of the public.

G 0633 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had visited the Skatepark that afternoon and was pleased to report that the reinstatement work was excellent, the turfing was progressing well and the area looked very good. The litter on the site was improved. There had been problems with vandalism on the site, which would be discussed later in the meeting. Three youths had been apprehended by the Police regarding the recent graffiti on the site.

G 0634 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members being present, there were no apologies for absence.

G 0635 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 17 February 2011 be approved with the following amendment:

Page 3Cllr Shore left.....and Cllr Aiston took the Chair

G 0636 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ayer declared a personal not prejudicial interest as James Tracey was known to him, minute number G 0641 refers.

Cllr Mrs Ayer declared a personal not prejudicial interest as James Tracey was known to her, minute number G 0641 refers.

G 0637 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr James Tracey of Round Table outlined the plans for the 24 hour walk at Penns Farm in aid of Walk4Dreams. He hoped this would be the first of many events for the Charity.

RESOLVED to alter the order of business to enable the request to use Penns Farm Playing Fields to be discussed prior to the MCO's report.

G 0638 PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS

A request to use Penns Farm Playing Fields for a charity event, Walk4Dreams on 7 May 2011 was received from Round Table/Rotary Club.

This event would also include some camping at the site. The organisation needed to check if a premises licence would be required for the event. Facilities at the Rugby Club would be available for those who were camping at the site. Concern was expressed at damage that may be caused by metal tent pegs in the ground and also at possible damage if the weather was very wet.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that permission be given to The Round Table/Rotary to hold a 24 hour walking event for Walk4Dreams on 7 May 2011 with the proviso that detailed plans be submitted to the MCO, including the necessary risk assessments, that the area be reinstated to the satisfaction of the MCO, that all litter be removed from the site and that an entertainment licence (if necessary) be obtained. There would be no charge for this event.

G 0639

MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OFFICER'S (MCO) REPORT

Concern was, once again, raised at the wording preceding the MCO's report, which one member found to be offensive. The Chairman advised that questions could be asked but no decisions could be made regarding any items on the report. If necessary an item could be placed on an agenda for debate.

The Town Clerk was surprised that the wording was found to be offensive as it stated that Officers were happy to take questions. A similar form of wording was on other reports produced by Officers. Members advised that the only problem was with the wording on the MCO's report. It was agreed that the form of wording on the preface of the MCO's report be discussed and agreed at the next meeting of the Grounds committee.

Members received the MCO's report which, following questions, was noted, copy attached to these minutes at Appendix A for information.

G 0640

THE HEATH

a. Review of the Erosion Control trial of Grid Pave

The majority of members were very happy with the trial of Grid Pave at The Heath. However a member expressed concern that the grass did not appear to have grown although the grid pave had made the transition from hard surface to soft surface much improved. Other members did not agree that the grass had not grown and thought it was quite green considering the time of year. Discussion took place on whether the trial should be extended throughout the summer and also if the area of the trial should be increased. It was suggested that the grid pave may be used in conjunction with the proposed new play site in the area.

RECOMMENDED that Officers obtain a price for a modest extension of the grid pave trial area and that this matter be considered again at the April meeting of Grounds.

b. Work for control of asbestos at The Heath Kiosk

The MCO advised that two quotations had been received for the containment of the asbestos present at The Heath Kiosk. The law allowed that asbestos could be made safe in this way and the Town Council had a duty to do this. Removal of the asbestos could be undertaken but this would incur a much greater cost to the Town Council. A quotation had been obtained from H Monfared in the sum of £6,850 and from K Richards in the sum of £4,132. A third quotation was still awaited. No budget was available for this work.

Discussion took place regarding the Type 1 asbestos survey's which had been carried out some years previously. The MCO confirmed that subsequent testing had been carried out and that asbestos was present in the Kiosk. It was suggested that Officers ascertain if a developer's contribution bid could be made for this work.

Heated discussion then took place with Officers and members regarding whether this matter could be resolved by the Grounds committee. The Town Clerk advised that all decisions pertaining to the Heath Charity must be a recommendation to the trustees, via Full Council, as had already been stated previously many times by members. Some members did not agree and felt that the question of developers' contributions could be resolved. The Town Clerk offered to ascertain if developer's contributions would be appropriate in time for the Full Council meeting but reiterated that this must be a recommendation to the Council. Following which members decided to withdraw the suggestion of developers' contributions and decided that the EHDC councillors present would investigate the probability of developers' contributions being available for this project. Officers expressed their disquiet at this decision.

Members wished to have prices available for the complete removal of the asbestos from the Kiosk.

RECOMMENDED that the third quotation for the covering of the asbestos at the Heath Kiosk be made available for the April meeting of the Grounds committee together (if possible) with three additional quotations for the complete removal of the asbestos present at the Heath Kiosk.

G 0641

LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND

a. Skatepark - vandalism

The Chairman advised that a meeting had been held with Ian Essai of the Town/Town Juniors Football Club that day to discuss vandalism at the site. Discussion had taken place regarding CCTV for the site, in partnership with the Football Club. The Chairman suggested that the Grounds committee explore the provision of CCTV and similar deterrents for the site.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that information be sought and presented to a future meeting of the Grounds committee regarding the provision of CCTV or similar deterrents for the Love Lane site with the advice of the Crime Prevention Officer, Penny Tarrant also being sought.

b. Petersfield Town Juniors

A request to use the area in front of the Pavilion for football coaching during the Easter holidays (18 - 20 April 2011) and the summer holidays (1 - 5 August 2011) was received and considered by members.

Some members felt that the Football Club should be charged for this sort of usage as the sessions were not, it was believed, free of charge to the young people. Members felt they needed more information regarding the charges made for the coaching sessions. Officers advised that the time scale for the April request was too tight to bring back to committee. Following which it was

RECOMMENDED that the Town Juniors Football Club be given permission to use the area in front of the Pavilion (final site to be agreed with MCO) during the Easter holiday from 18 to 20 April 2011 with no charge. However permission would not, at this time, be given for the August sessions until more information regarding charges to the users for the coaching was available to members. The August request would be considered once this financial information was obtained from the Club.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Maintenance & Contracts Officer's Report
to PTC Grounds Committee.

March 2011

Members are reminded that the items within this report are provided for information only and are not available for debate. If it is considered that an item listed within the report should be debated fully by members, then it will be placed on the next appropriate Committee or Council agenda. We will always try to answer any questions that members may have on the contents of this report, but please bear in mind that if further information or investigation is necessary, answers will need to be given outside of the meeting. ~ Town Clerk.

Love Lane Skate Park:

- Landscape and turfing operations have proceeded well and should be completed very soon the initial appearance and visual impact so far is excellent. There have been very few minor instances of vandalism while the work has been going on. One incident involving damage to the temporary fencing was reported but fortunately the culprit was identified by some of the regular users and this information has been passed on to the police. I am pleased to say that most of the skate park users have been very appreciative of the facility, have co-operated with us and been very complimentary and helpful to our contractor and PTC staff. The skate park has remained open for use throughout the works and the temporary fencing will remain at least until the turf is established enough to withstand traffic. An additional bench seat and litter bin will be installed and the area rolled level.
- All other contractual work to the park is now complete apart from some additional fence supports which the skate park contractor intends to install along the retaining wall area of the boundary fence (football club side) this work is awaiting design detail from an independent structural engineer.
- Final payments to the skate park contractor have not yet been released. As agreed, only after all works have been completed in accordance with the terms of the agreement and to our satisfaction, will any outstanding amounts be paid and then there will remain a 5% retention for 12 months.
- Litter is collected daily from the entire area including along the inside southern boundary fence of the football club.

Love Lane Recreation Ground:

- The fence separating the car park from the mini-pitches in the north west corner of the ground (above the pavilion) was in a bad condition and had reached the point where it presented a number of Health & Safety problems, The fence has had to be replaced as a matter of urgency.
- Lead was stolen from the pavilion roof. This has now been repaired and replaced with a non-lead alternative which has no scrap value. A notice to this effect is displayed on the pavilion. The work is the subject of an insurance claim.
- Graffiti which appeared on the pavilion has been successfully removed by our operative.

Continued at 2. Over:

The Heath:

- Essential repair work to the sluice gate has been satisfactorily completed. This was a budgeted item.
- Minor planned tree maintenance work has been carried out in accordance with the Heath Management Plan. Various areas including adjacent to the cricket ground.
- Fish appear to be healthy and are evident in good numbers. Water level remains high with no indication of blue green algae.
- Various work has been carried out to repair/replace some toilet roll holders and extractor fans in the toilet block as part of routine maintenance (budgeted).

Sheet Allotments:

- I have issued an order to fill in the worst of the potholes along the access tracks with crushed stone or scalping.

Sheet Recreation Ground:

- Banner Homes, who are building the Rotherfield Place residential development which borders the recreation ground, have offered an apology and have agreed to re-plant the area where the demised hedge was previously removed.

The Avenue Recreation Ground:

- Travellers managed to park a large vehicle in the pavilion car park. Complaints were received from several residents. Police were informed and after our request to the travellers to vacate our land had failed the police were called again. By the time the police responded the travellers had moved on by their own volition. They occupied the car park for two nights, there appears to be no damage or litter left behind.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground:

- Our maintenance contractor has caused accidental damage to the overhead barrier. The contractor will carry out repair at no cost to the Town Council.

Penns Farm Playing Fields:

- Persons unknown have stolen our 2 tonne field roller from the corner of the playing fields. They managed to remove some posts (dragon's teeth) to gain access and load the roller onto what must be a fairly substantial vehicle. This appears to have happened sometime over the weekend yet amazingly it seems no one saw anything! The roller which belongs to PTC was used by our contractor and also occasionally by the football and rugby clubs it was too big to house inside or be easily transported back and forth and has for many years lived in the open on the edge of the playing fields. Police have been informed and the dragon's teeth posts have been re-instated.

Paddock Way:

- In the playground the slide chute is damaged beyond repair and will require replacement. I am awaiting estimate of cost.